



# Washington State Department of Agriculture *Hearing Notice*

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## **WSDA proposes increased fees for organic certification**

OLYMPIA – The state Department of Agriculture proposes to increase certification fees for organic producers, processors, and handlers; establish new fees for certifying retail food stores; and increase registration fees for organic fertilizers and pest control materials. A hearing on the proposal will be held at 11 a.m. January 8 in room 259 of the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St., Olympia. The deadline to comment is 5 p.m. the same day.

“The fee increases are needed to cover the increased costs of running the organic certification program,” says Miles McEvoy, Organic Program manager. “The fees are designed to reflect the cost of providing the certification service.” The state’s organic certification program is entirely funded by certification fees.

The proposal increases the minimum fee for all types of certification to \$200. New application fees are increased from \$75 to \$100. There is an across the board 10 percent fee increase for processors and handlers. The proposal will increase fees for small organic farms with sales under \$15,000 from \$165 to \$200. A medium sized organic farm with sales between \$100,000 and \$125,000 will increase from \$1,100 to \$1,150, and a large organic farm with sales between \$500,000 and \$750,000 will increase from \$2,750 to \$3,000.

The proposal also establishes fees for retail food stores that wish to obtain organic certification. Though retail food stores are exempt from certification under the National Organic Program, retailers have requested organic certification. Under a pilot program, WSDA is working with four retail food stores that have requested organic certification.

Comments may be mailed to the Organic Food Program, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560; sent by fax to (360) 902-1924 or sent by e-mail to [mmcevoy@agr.wa.gov](mailto:mmcevoy@agr.wa.gov). Questions may be directed to Miles McEvoy, program manager, at (360) 902-1924.

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